

Message Text

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14

ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 DHA-02 IO-11 VO-03 CIAE-00

FBIE-00 NSAE-00 SCA-01 EUR-12 AID-05 INR-07 /054 W

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R 051145Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO AMEMBASSY FRANKFURT

USMISSION GENEVA

INS WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY ROME

SECSTATE WASHDC 5466

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ATHENS, FRANKFURT, AND ROME FOR INS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, IR, IZ

SUBJECT: PROCESSING OF KURDISH REFUGEES IN TEHRAN

REFS: TEHRAN 0539, ROME 0961

SUMMARY: DEPARTURE OF 19 KURDISH REFUGEES FOR THE NETHERLANDS AND PARTIAL COMPLETION OF PAPER WORK ON SOME 135 KURDISH REFUGEES GOING TO U.S. GIVE PROMISE OF EARLY DEPARTURE OF FIRST GROUP OF REFUGEES FOR PROCESSING IN FRANKFURT. HOWEVER, REQUIREMENT FOR COMPLETION OF CLEARANCE FORM AND FINGERPRINT CARD IN TEHRAN WILL CAUSE DELAY WHICH EMBASSY BELIEVES UNNECESSARY. LACK OF PROGRESS ON RETURN CLAUSE IN TRAVEL DOCUMENT ALSO THREATENS TO DELAY PROCESSING HERE. INS GUIDANCE REQUESTED. END SUMMARY

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1. NINETEEN KURDISH REFUGEES LEFT MORNING OF FEBRUARY 2 FOR THE

HAGUE. LAISSEZ-PASSERS IN REFUGEES' HANDS HAD BEEN ISSUED AT VARIOUS TIMES IN RECENT MONTHS AND, IN MOST CASES, RENEWED AT THE LAST MINUTE TO PERMIT DEPARTURE. KURDISH REFUGEES DESIRING TO LEAVE IRAN FOR THIRD COUNTRIES ARE MUCH ENCOURAGED BY MOVEMENT OF THIS FIRST GROUP OF REFUGEES UNDER UNHCR AUSPICES.

2. UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE GOODYEAR MET WITH EMBOFFS AND KURDISH REP SHAFIQ QAZZAZ FEBRUARY 4 TO DISCUSS PROCESSING OF REFUGEES. QAZZAZ GAVE GOODYEAR AND EMBASSY REVISED LIST OF SOME 700 KURDISH REFUGEES DESIRING TO GO TO U.S. HE COMMENTED THAT HE WOULD NOT EXPECT ALL OF THESE REFUGEES TO LEAVE, BUT LIST REPRESENTS CURRENT SURVEY OF ALL REFUGEE GROUPS WITH WHOM QAZZAZ AND OTHER KURDISH REPS HAVE MADE CONTACT. GOODYEAR PRESENTED 115 COMPLETED REGISTRATION FORMS (I-590) FOR EMBASSY TO RETAIN AND SAID FORMS FOR 20 ASSYRIANS WHO HAD EARLIER THROWN IN THEIR LOT WITH KURDISH REBELS WOULD BE PROVIDED IN A FEW DAYS FOR INCLUSION WITH OTHER REFUGEES. GOODYEAR SAID ASSURANCE FORMS (I-591) HAD BEEN PREPARED ON THESE SAME 135 PEOPLE AND HAD BEEN SENT TO GENEVA WITH A REQUEST THAT BLANK FOR NAME OF SPONSORING AGENCY BE FILLED IN THERE. THIS TACTIC WAS ADOPTED IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE QUICK ACTION ON SECURING SPONSORSHIP FOR REFUGEES.

3. EMBOFFS WERE TAKEN ABACK WHEN GOODYEAR EXPLAINED THAT AT JANUARY 15 COORDINATION MEETING IN FRANKFURT IT HAD BEEN DECIDED THAT PERSONAL DATA FORM G-325C WOULD BE REQUIRED FOR EACH REFUGEE. THIS FORM REQUIRES DETAILED INFORMATION ON PLACES OF RESIDENCE AND JOBS OCCUPIED DURING PREVIOUS FIVE YEARS, AND WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO FILL OUT WITHOUT PERSONAL INTERVIEW WITH EACH REFUGEE. BECAUSE THIS FORM MUST BE COMPLETED EARLY IN ORDER TO ALLOW 40 DAYS FOR COMPLETION OF EACH INVESTIGATION, IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO GIVE PERSONAL INTERVIEW TO EACH REFUGEE PRIOR TO HIS FINAL PROCESSING IN TEHRAN. THIS WOULD NECESSITATE EITHER SPECIAL TRIPS TO TEHRAN BY REFUGEES FROM SURROUNDING LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT IRAN JUST TO PROVIDE THIS INFORMATION, OR EXPENSIVE AND TIME-CONSUMING TRIPS BY KURDISH REPS SUCH AS QAZZAZ TO THESE SAME LOCATIONS. FURTHERMORE, THIS FORM'S BASIC INFORMATION ABOUT EACH REFUGEE DUPLICATES INFORMATION ON FORM I-590, AND IT SEEMS DOUBTFUL THAT DETAILED RESIDENCE AND OCCUPATIONAL INFORMATION WOULD BE OF MUCH ASSISTANCE TO INVESTIGATIVE AGENCIES IN THE U.S. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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(FOR EXAMPLE, MANY KURDS HAVE BEEN ROAMING IN NORTHEASTERN IRAQ FOR YEARS FIGHTING WITH THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, WHICH WOULD MAKE COMPLETION OF PERSONAL DATA FORM MOST DIFFICULT.) AS NAMES AND OTHER BASIC DATA WILL BE SUBMITTED TO STATE DEPARTMENT FOR VISA EAGLE CLEARANCE, WE HOPE IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO AVOID COMPLETION OF SUPERFLUOUS FORM G-325C. (IF THIS FORM IS STILL CONSIDERED MANDATORY, SUFFICIENT FORMS FOR ABOUT 600 REFUGEES WILL BE NEEDED.)

4. COMPLETION OF FBI'S FINGERPRINT CARD INVOLVES SAME OPERATIONAL PROBLEMS OUTLINED ABOVE. DURING PROCESSING IN TEHRAN, EMBASSY HOPES TO ARRANGE FOR MEDICAL EXAMS WITH RED LION AND SUN AND FOR COMPLETION OF OTHER PAPER WORK AT GOODYEAR'S OFFICE, AVOIDING NECESSITY FOR EACH REFUGEE TO VISIT ALREADY CROWDED CONSULAR SECTION. AS REFUGEES MUST BE PERSONALLY INTERVIEWED IN FRANKFURT IN ANY CASE, SUGGEST FINGERPRINT CARDS BE COMPLETED THERE.

5. IRAQI AFFAIRS CHIEF GHASSEMI TOLD EMBOFF FEBRUARY 4 THAT WHILE TWO-YEAR RETURN CLAUSE GAVE MINISTRY NO SERIOUS PROBLEM, HE DID NOT KNOW HOW BLANKET RETURN CLAUSE WOULD BE DOCUMENTED. WHEN ASKED IF VEHICLE WOULD BE LETTER FROM FOREIGN MINISTER TO AMBASSADOR, GHASSEMI SAID NO AND SAID HE HOPED TO HAVE AN INSTRUCTION FROM HIS SUPERIORS VERY SOON. DISCUSSION OF LAISSEZ-PASSERS QUESTION AT ABOVE MEETING WITH GOODYEAR BROUGHT UP QUESTION WHETHER LAISSEZAPASSERS ARE NEEDED AT ALL. EMBOFF COMMENTED THAT COMPLETED INS FORMS WOULD BE SUFFICIENT DOCUMENTATION FOR ENTRANCE INTO U.S. IF GOI AGREES TO LIFT REQUIREMENT FOR LAISSEZ-PASSER AND IF FRG CAN ADMIT REGUGEES FOR PROCESSING BY INS OFFICE IN FRANKFURT ON BASIS OF SAME COMPLETED FORMS, CAN LAISSEZ-PASSER REQUIREMENT BE AVOIDED? GOI TOOK OVER A MONTH TO COMPLETE LAISSEZ-PASSERS FOR 19 REGUGEES BOUND FOR NETHERLANDS--ELIMINATION OF THIS STEP WOULD SAVE WEEKS OF PROCESSING TIME. IF INS SEES NO OBJECTION, EMBASSY WILL EXPLORE THIS POSSIBILITY WITH GOI.

6. PREPARATIONS FOR TRAVEL OF KURDISH REFUGEES TO AUSTRIA (100) AND CANADA (100) ARE SOON TO BE COMPLETED AND AUSTRALIA MAY DECIDE TO JOIN IN BY TAKING 50. NOTING MR. FALCHER'S DESIRE THAT REFUGEE TRAVEL TO US BE ACCOMPLISHED BY JULY 31, EMBASSY IS ANXIOUS TO EXPEDITE PROCESSING. IF FORM G-325C LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CAN BE OMITTED AND FINGERPRINT CARD COMPLETED AT FRANKFURT, SVBASSY AND GOODYEAR BELIEVE FIRST GROUP OF REFUGEES COULD LEAVE TEHRAN BY MID-MARCH. PLEASE ADVISE WHETHER THIS CHANGE IN PROCEDURE WILL BE POSSIBLE. THIS EMBASSY HAS PUSHED FOR REFUGEE PROGRAM FOR ALMOST A YEAR AND IS ANXIOUS TO COMPLETE PROGRAM NOW THAT KURDISH REFUGEE EXPECTATIONS HAVE BEEN RAISED BY MORE EXPEDITIOUS PROGRAMS OF OTHER COUNTRIES. HELMS

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